

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 09613 192247Z

71

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8467

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NESCO

11652: N/A

TAGS: XB, AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: ASIAN GROUP MEETING ON M'BOW AND
SOVIET REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP

1. JAPANESE PERMREP (IKEBE) ADVISED DELOFF THAT UNESCO ASIAN GROUP MET APRIL 18 AND ACCORDED MAJORITY ENDORSEMENT TO M'BOW CANDIDACY FOR DG OF UNESCO BUT DEFERRED INDEFINITELY CONSIDERATION OF SOVIET MEMBERSHIP IN GROUP BECAUSE OF CHINESE AND GROUP MAJORITY OPPOSITION.

2. IKEBE SAID THAT CPR, THE 9 SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS, BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN, NEPAL, AND SRI LANKA ALL MADE STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR M'BOW BUT THAT INDIA, JAPAN AND MONGOLIA RESERVED THEIR POSITIONS UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH. THE GROUP AGREED THAT THEIR CHAIRMAN (PAKISTAN) WOULD WRITE A LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF UNESCO GROUP OF 77 (ALGERIA) STATING THAT "OVERWHELMING MAJORITY" OF ASIANS SUPPORT M'BOW. LETTER WILL BE DELIVERED AND PUBLICIZED NEXT WEEK.

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3. THE MONGOLIAN RESERVATION PROBABLY DUE LACK AS YET

OF SOVIET DECLARATION ON DG RACE WHILE IKEBE SAID JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET COMPLETED ITS CONSIDERATIONS. INDIAN PERMREP GAVE NO EXPLANATION BUT DID INDICATE GOI WOULD MAKE ITS POSITION KNOWN BY MAY 1.

4. MONGOLIANS HAD PLACED QUESTION OF SOVIET MEMBERSHIP IN ASIAN REGIONAL GROUP ON AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING BUT CHINESE DEPUTY PERMREP (LI KUANG-TSE) TOOK INITIATIVE TO OPPOSE STRONGLY ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE PENDING DECISION BY GENERAL CONFERENCE. WHILE THIS REASONING SOMEWHAT MUDDLED, AS GROUP DISCUSSION OR EVEN DECISION WOULD NOT HAVE LEGAL EFFECT, JAPAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIANS SUPPORTED DELETION OF THE ITEM FROM AGENDA. IKEBE SAID HE PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO ANY NATIONS MEMBERSHIP IN TWO UNESCO REGIONAL GROUPS ALTHOUGH GOJ HAS NOT MADE A FINAL POLICY DECISION.

5. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY FROM US STANDPOINT WAS REPORTED FEELING OF SEVERAL IN ASIAN GROUP THAT SOVIET-ASIAN GROUP MEMBERSHIP IS RELEVANT TO QUESTION OF US-EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP. IKEBE STRESSED THIS SEEMED TO BE A FEELING SHARED BY PERMREPS AND THEREFORE SAID IT IMPORTANT THAT THE US BE CAREFUL TO KEEP ISSUES CLEARLY SEPARATE AND OTHERWISE AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF LINKAGE. IKEBE ALSO VOLUNTEERED THAT IN RESPONSE TO CANADIAN PERMREP (GAGNON) QUERY GOJ HAS STATED IT WILL SUPPORT CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP PROVIDED MAJORITY OF EUROPEANS ALSO ARE IN FAVOR. IKEBE SAID NO REFERENCE MADE TO JOINT US-CANADIAN APPLICATION FOR EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP.
IRWIN

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